

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The amendment to the claims filed January 24, 2011 is acknowledged by examiner and has been entered. Claims 12-19 and 26 have been cancelled. Claims 27-34 have been newly added.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments, filed January 24, 2011, with respect to claims 20-25 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 20-25 as previously set forth has been withdrawn. The cited prior art does not disclose or teach a method for producing a geogrid in which all of the longitudinal fiber-reinforced polymer strips are pressed by first bending members from an upper plate and second bending members from a lower plate at the same time to form ridges and valleys in each of the longitudinal fiber-reinforced polymer strips.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Kongsik Kim on February 14, 2011.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the CLAIMS:

Claim 20, line 2, after the word "longitudinal", and before the word "polymer",
the phrase – fiber-reinforced – has been inserted.

Claim 20, lines 2-3, after the word "lateral", and before the word "polymer",
the phrase – fiber-reinforced – has been inserted.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Meyer et al. (US 5,735,640), Stevenson et al. (US 5,965,467), and Kallmeyer (US 4,095,619) have been found to be the closest prior art.

Regarding claim 20, Meyer et al. discloses geotextile membranes formed by weaving a number of fill members such as fibrillated polymer strips with a plurality of warp members sets. However, Meyer et al., Stevenson et al., and Kallmeyer, individually or combined, do not disclose or teach a method for producing a geogrid in which all of the longitudinal fiber-reinforced polymer strips are pressed by first bending members from an upper plate and second bending members from a lower plate at the same time to form ridges and valleys in each of the longitudinal fiber-reinforced polymer strips. At best the

cited prior art above teaches the use of conventional weaving looms. As such, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to arrive at the method for producing a geogrid as claimed by applicant because the apparatus needed to do so is not taught or suggested by the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ALTREV C. SYKES whose telephone number is (571)270-3162. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 8AM-5PM EST, alt Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Angela Ortiz can be reached on 571-272-1206. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1798

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Angela Ortiz/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1798

/AlTrev C. Sykes/
Examiner, Art Unit 1798
2/14/11